

Picture It Better Together: Taking Transportation Goals from Policy to Reality

Type/Location	Planning Grant, Greater Hartford, CT	Greater Hartford, Connecticut
Organizations	The Capitol Region Council of Governments,	The City of Hartford
Key Contacts	Richard J. Porth CROCOG Executive Director 241 Main Street Hartford, CT 06106	Linda Bayer, Asst. City Manager Gerry Maine, Principal Planner 10 Prospect St., Planning Dept 4 th floor, Hartford, CT 06103
Phone	860-522-2217	860-543-8522 / 543-8675
Fax and E-mail	860-724-1274 rporth@crocog.org	860-722-6402 lbayer@connix.com
Grant Request	\$480,000	

ABSTRACT

The Capitol Region Council of Governments and the City of Hartford have merged proposals into a project that is innovative in content and in method. This fused proposal examines the links between transportation, land use, and economic development at both the neighborhood and regional level. Through the *Picture It Better Together: Taking Transportation Goals from Policy to Reality* project, we will research sustainable development practices informed by local and regional perspectives. Tensions often exist between grassroots, neighborhood efforts and more top-down regional planning. Our proposal seeks to use the creative potential of tension by building a team of community stakeholders and regional planners. This effort will use our different outlooks as catalysts for implementing actions that strengthen the transportation, land use, and environmental connection so that local and regional actions reinforce each other.

Picture It Better Together will identify traditional forms of circulation and land use patterns in three prototypical communities: one urban, one suburban, and one rural. Then in each we will plan for integrative patterns of development. At the regional level, we will research and form best development practices, business incentives, and public/private support for these strategies. We will also facilitate discussion about regional interdependence. At the neighborhood level, we will plan human-scaled land use designs that integrate multiple

transport modes and address traffic conflicts. Working from both perspectives will yield local actions supported by broader policies and resources.

Our results will be community-specific tools, techniques, design standards, incentives, and public and private support for implementation of concepts that generally fall under the rubric of sustainable development. These outcomes include model ordinances and intermodal design standards that address walking, biking, parking, traffic calming, transit, and trucking. A key result will be an examination of ties between economic development and existing and potential intermodal transportation opportunities such as the Hartford West busway.

Our three communities are the city of Hartford (urban), the Town of West Hartford (suburban), and the Town of Suffield (rural). These choices include two major job generators: the central city and the regional international airport. Parkville, one of Hartford's most racially, ethnically, and economically diverse areas and a direct West Hartford abutter, will be the urban focus area. Parkville's vision is to become an urban, walking neighborhood. The table below gives a demographic overview of these areas.

Picture It Better Together will provide Greater Hartford communities with sustainable development tools and practices that take full advantage of the development opportunities before us.

Geographic Area	1996 Estimate of population	1990 Pct. White, Non-Hispanic	1990 Median HH income	1997 Pct. Local jobs to employed residents	1990 Pct. HHs without vehicles
Capitol Region	695,870	79.4	\$42,077	127.5	11.9
Hartford	133,086	30.5	\$22,140	244.8	38.5
Parkville	33,705	26.2	\$19,864	n/s	41.7
West Hartford	56,795	91.8	\$49,642	100.4	8.0
Suffield	11,216	96.3	\$50,714	64.2	4.0